

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment, submitted along with a request for an RCE, is responsive to the Final Action mailed November 30, 2005. Claims 6 and 9 are herein cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 20-32 are added herein. Therefore, presently pending are claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10-32. The total number of independent claims are now 3 and the total number of claims are 30. Therefore, applicants submit along with this Preliminary Amendment additional filing fees to cover 10 claims over 20. No additional filing fee is needed for independent claims.

In the November 30, 2005 Final Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Taggart ('501).

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejection.

First, applicants state that the additional sentence added herein at the end of paragraph [0063] of the specification does not add new matter into the application. Figs. 16 and 17 clearly show an embodiment of the invention where the cross-sectional diameter of the pins is sized to be able to be received within the openings in the mounting block, along the entire length of the pins.

As amended, claim 1 is no longer anticipated by Taggart. Assuming for purposes of this Preliminary Amendment that the Examiner's characterizations of the structure of Taggart are correct (which applicants do not agree are correct), Taggart clearly does not show the male hinge portion 28 being attached to a mounting surface that is substantially perpendicular to the reflective surface of the mirror panel. Accordingly, it is respectfully believed that the refusal based upon Taggart is overcome for claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended in a manner unrelated to the Taggart refusal and in order to remove what applicants believe is unnecessary, limiting language.

New claims 20-32 add no new matter into the application and are also believed not to be anticipated by Taggart. In particular, new independent claim 21 recites as follows in its last phrase: "and further wherein said at least one mounting pin is attached directly to at least one of said first or

“and further wherein said at least one mounting pin is attached directly to at least one of said first or second mounting surfaces of said first or second mirror panels.” Nothing in Taggert shows or remotely suggests that what the Examiner is calling the mounting pin of Taggert (i.e., the male portion of hinge 28), is attached directly to the mounting surface (i.e., sides 22 of Taggert) of the mirror panel. As such, new claim 21 is distinguished from Taggert.

As all of the now pending independent claims are allowable, all of their respective dependent claims are also allowable.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above remarks and amendments.

A request for a two-month extension is enclosed, along with a completed Credit Card form in the amount of \$975 to cover the extension fee for a small entity for two months (\$225), the basic filing fee for the RCE (\$500) and the fee for 10 claims over 20 (\$250). Applicant does not believe any additional fees are required. However, in the event there are any additional fees due and owing in connection with this matter, or there are any overpayments herein, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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